

Application No. 10/720,481
Reply dated April 8, 2005
Response to Office Action dated December 15, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of amendments

Claims 2, 3, 7, 11-14 are now pending and under examination. Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 7, and 10-13 in independent form, added claim 14, and cancelled claims 1, 4-6, and 8-10. No new matter has been added.

New claim 14 is a combination of the subject matters of claims 1 and 3.

Allowed and allowable claims

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has indicated claims 2, 3, 7, and 11-13 would be allowable if they are rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 11-13 have been rewritten in independent form and, accordingly, are in allowable form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a)

The cancellation of claims 1, 4-6, and 8-10 renders the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a) moot.

New claim 14 is patentable because none of the cited references teaches or suggests that when the vehicle's power supply switch or ignition key switch is turned off, the braking force of the electro-mechanical brake is maintained by the parking-brake mechanism.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

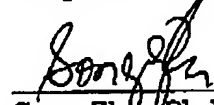
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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.52940US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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